

STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF IOWA

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

# The Annals of Iowa

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Volume 15 | Number 6 (Fall 1926)

pps. 471-471

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George Kuhns

ISSN 0003-4827

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## Recommended Citation

"George Kuhns." *The Annals of Iowa* 15 (1926), 471-471.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.5033>

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GEORGE WORTH SCHEE was born near Alexandria, Missouri, June 15, 1847, and died at National City, California, February 9, 1926. Burial was at Primghar, Iowa. His parents were Arnold and Martha Schee. He early became an orphan and was reared at the home of an uncle. He removed to Mahaska County, Iowa, in 1861. He enlisted in Company C, Thirty-third Iowa Infantry, March 21, 1864. On July 12, 1865, he was transferred to the Thirty-fourth and Thirty-eighth Iowa Infantry Consolidated, and was mustered out August 15, 1865, at Houston, Texas. In 1871 he removed to O'Brien County and entered and later proved up on a United States homestead in Carroll Township, that county. He went through all the pioneer hardships and experiences of those years in that vicinity, his principal occupations being farming and school-teaching. He was a leader in the struggle of the settlers to adjust the payment of a debt imposed on the county almost in its beginning. He served as county auditor from 1875 to 1878 inclusive. He was admitted to the bar in 1881, but never entered into general practice. He was elected representative in 1883, 1885, 1908 and 1910, serving in the Twentieth, Twenty-first, Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth general assemblies. Commencing near the time he left the office of county auditor he engaged in the loan business, handling money for loan companies, and built up a large and lucrative business, and became the owner of some 3,000 acres of land in Iowa, and about 1,000 acres in Minnesota.

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GEORGE KUHN'S was born near Andalusia, Rock Island County, Illinois, August 26, 1861, and died in Des Moines, Iowa, January 13, 1926. His parents were Weaver Potter and Ophelia (McDowell) Kuhns. He attended grammar school at Andalusia, high school at Reynolds, Illinois, and was three years in Iowa Agricultural College, Ames. While there he was commissioned captain by Governor Sherman as an instructor in military tactics at the college. On leaving college he entered the employment of a lumber company at Clinton, and later with the Walker Lumber Company, Pratt, Kansas. He began life insurance work at Sioux City in 1890 with the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia. He was first associated with the Bankers Life Insurance Company of Des Moines in 1897 as legislative agent. He became field manager in 1900, second vice president and field manager in 1912, and president in 1916, remaining in that position until his death. During the World War he was named by the secretary of the United States Treasury as director for the Middle West in the campaign to sell government life insurance to members of the Army and Navy. He was an ardent lover of outdoor recreation—golfing, fishing and big game hunting, having fished and hunted over the United States, Mexico, and Canada. As a life insurance executive he became an outstanding figure, lead in placing the Bankers Life among the few great companies west of the Mississippi River, and helped Des Moines to become the great insurance center of the West.

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